



Insight Meditation Community of Western Massachusetts

(formerly known as Insight Pioneer Valley)

News from the Board, 7/30/21

We, the members of the Board of Insight Western Mass, are glad to share the updates and information below.

Town Hall:

Our working group to explore alternative sangha structures, led by Ruth Folchman (Practice Leader) and Lore Detenber (Beloved Community Builder member and White & Awakening in the Dharma co-facilitator), will discuss some of what they have been learning about possible models for sangha governance at a Town Hall on Wednesday, August 25 at 7pm via Zoom (in place of a regularly scheduled Dharma Talk). Ruth & Lore have been interviewing leaders of other sanghas to find out how they function and what inspiration we might take from their approach to governance.

We hope everyone will come to the Town Hall to listen, share ideas, and ask questions.

Sangha Stewards:

- We offer a deep bow to our May, June, and July Zoom hosts (Catalina Arrubla; Suzanne Artemieff; Lucy B; Hal Fales; Ruth Folchman; Keila Franks; Nick Isherwood; April McNally) and our new host/greeter coordinator Lauren Isherwood.
- We also want to thank the Scheduling Committee (Candace Cassin, Lore Detenber, Hal Fales, Anne Fine, Keila Franks, Manny Mansbach) for their hard work on establishing this new process and putting together our calendar of offerings.
- Our continued gratitude to Teachers, Practice Leaders, Kalyana Mitta facilitators, and White & Awakening in the Dharma facilitators. We will hold a **Sangha Stewards Appreciation Night** when the sangha has reopened, to thank the many members of the sangha who volunteer their time in a whole range of capacities to keep our sangha going. We on the Board are volunteers as well and for us, service to the sangha is a sacred practice that we engage in joyfully alongside our fellow volunteers.

- We continue to seek new Board members! Please contact us at leadership@insightpv.org with any questions or simply submit your application [here](#) or read more [here](#).

Diversity & Justice:

- Starting in the fall, we will offer a **Kalyana Mitta** group focused on the intersection of race, racism, and racial justice and the Dharma. Facilitators are still settling on the book the group will use. Please look out for the announcement when the application process is open.
- We will offer the **White & Awakening in the Dharma** (WAD) six-month curriculum again in Fall 2022. Graduates from the first cohort of WAD will continue to meet for the coming year for half-day retreats to deepen the work begun in the course. WAD graduates are also forming Kalyana Mitta groups.

Re-opening:

We are moving towards offering some of our programs in person this fall, while continuing to make a range of offerings available solely online. In this process, we're exploring questions about COVID safety and if we have the capacity to make in-person offerings accessible to those who prefer to participate from home. Because of recent breakthrough cases of Easthampton residents who are vaccinated contracting COVID, we are moving more slowly than we had hoped at this point. All of our September offerings will be held via Zoom. We are committed to prioritizing caution and care in the process of returning to in-person offerings. We will be communicating further about this transition as it unfolds. Whether in-person or via Zoom, we will need volunteers to support our offerings as hosts and greeters and warmly invite everyone to come forward to steward the sangha at this time of transition.

Financial Update/Matching Grant:

- We thought we'd provide an update on this year's expenses and income and how that compares to this time last year. Our income is down considerably from a year ago and our expenses have increased. We had a couple of sizable donations early in 2020 that made a considerable impact on last year's mid year balance. This year, as of June 30th, we have a YTD deficit of almost \$9K. Last year, as of June 30th, we had received almost \$7K more than we had expended. We've included the chart below* which shows that 75% of our expenses this year are people-related. And, the income from our offerings (courses, retreats, dharma talks, sits) accounts for about half of what we have thus far received in 2021 (and is less than what we had received at this time last year). We're running a year-to-date deficit and we have cash reserves on hand. We are committed to ensuring that everyone is welcome at all of our offerings,

regardless of ability to donate. Those who donate more are helping to make the dharma accessible to all.

- \$15,000 Matching Grant Pledge: In the first week of our match, 21 sangha members contributed a total of \$1,935. Our gratitude to those who have already donated. If you would like to contribute and see your dana doubled, you may do so by clicking [here](#) or sending a check to InsightPV, 116 Pleasant Street, Suite 242, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Mid Year Overview of Income and Expenses / Comparison 2020	2021	2022
	June 30th	June 30th
Registration/Donations connected to offerings/events	\$13,711	\$16,810
General/Friends/Recurring Donations	\$13,216	\$23,770
INCOME	\$26,927	\$40,580
Staff, Taxes, Consultants, Interim GT, Dharma Talk Supplements	(\$26,914)	(\$22,360)
Rent, phones, internet, water/tea station, insurance	(\$6,445)	(\$6,620)
Systems/Admin/Program/All other	(\$2,549)	(\$4,640)
EXPENSES	(\$35,907)	(\$33,630)
Mid Year Balance	(\$8,980)	\$6,940

Leadership/Staffing:

- Keila Franks, who came on as a temporary consultant part-time from March-June and has been doing a full-time Field Placement (remotely) this summer, finishes up on Aug 13th. Keila has been a wonderful contributor to the sangha and we wish her all the best as she continues her studies in Buddhist Chaplaincy at Harvard Divinity School. We hope Keila will write a piece for our September newsletter about her time at IWM.
- We are pleased to announce that Bernadine Mellis, who serves on the Board and is one of the White & Awakening in the Dharma facilitators, is now also working as an IWM consultant 4-8 hours a week. Bernadine's time is focused in these overlapping areas: organizational stewardship, communications, administration; sila; community building and engagement/community partnerships; equity and inclusion. While Bernadine's consulting hours are far more limited than those expansive areas of focus, we are already grateful for her contributions.
- Elizabeth Morris continues to work remotely from Wisconsin and contributes greatly each week to the sangha in her role as our Outreach, Website, and Social Media Coordinator. Now that Elizabeth has settled into this role and is familiar with IWM systems, we look forward to additional growth and creative expansion in this area.
- We are in the process of developing a new position description to be posted soon. While both Keila and Elizabeth have been working remotely from Madison and the Boston area, and that has worked wonderfully, as

the center moves towards re-opening, it will be important that the person who replaces Keila be local.

Feedback:

We welcome all sangha members to step forward with your ideas and energy. The sangha will move in the direction we take it as a community. If you would like to speak with someone from the Board or staff about your ideas, and have energy to lead, or simply want to offer feedback, please reach out to us at: leadership@insightpv.org.

with much metta & care,
trellis, Hal, Lucy & Bernadine

Summaries of Recent Board Meetings can be found [here](#).